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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400

Date: July 23, 2009

Mr. Casey Reese
Appalachian Trail
USDI National Park Service
252 McDowell Street
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Dear Casey:

On June 15, 23 and 24, 2009, I conducted aerial surveys for gypsy moth-caused tree defoliation on the Appalachian Trail from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park north to the upper end of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. I am pleased to report that no defoliation was detected on, or in the vicinity of, any of the sections of the AT that were surveyed in West Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. The only section in Pennsylvania where defoliation was detected on, or in the vicinity of, the AT was the Swatara Gap to Schuylkill River area (Figures 1a-1d). Approximately 847 acres of light defoliation (30-50%) and 164 acres of heavy defoliation (51-100%) were detected along this 40 mile stretch. No defoliation was detected in any of the nine AT gypsy moth spray blocks.

However, it will be difficult to quantify the impacts of this year's gypsy moth suppression project on the AT since gypsy moth populations have collapsed throughout most of the region primarily due to the fungal pathogen, *Entomophaga maimaiga*. This pathogen is usually prevalent during wet and cool Springs like the one that we just experienced. The impacts of *Entomophaga maimaiga* have been highly variable from year to year and are difficult to predict.

If you anticipate requesting either financial or technical assistance for gypsy moth control in 2010 or are interested in a gypsy moth survey training session, please contact Brad Onken (304) 285-1546 or me (304) 285-1555 before August 21, 2009.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding the aerial survey or this letter.

Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN
Forester
Forest Health Protection



Cc: Butch Sayers, WVDA
Bob Tatman, MDA
Tom Lupp, MDA
Kevin Carlin, PA BOF
George Koeck, NJDF
Joe Zoltowski, NJDA
Robert Lueckel, MFO

Figure 1a. Results of the aerial survey along the Appalachian Trail conducted on June 15th, 2009.

Tim, there was some defoliation along I-81 that was not mapped

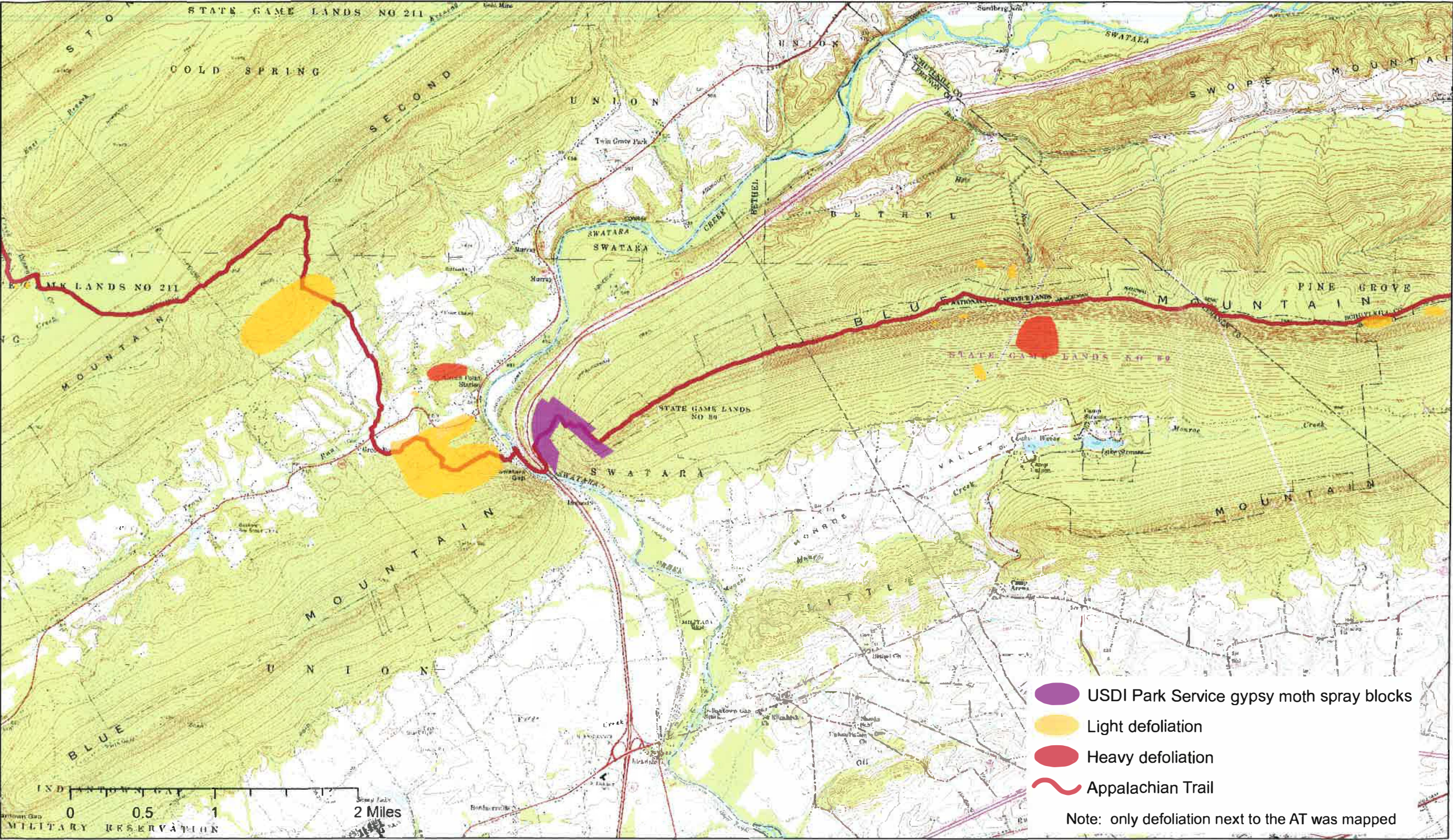


Figure 1b. Results of the aerial survey along the Appalachian Trail conducted on June 15th, 2009.

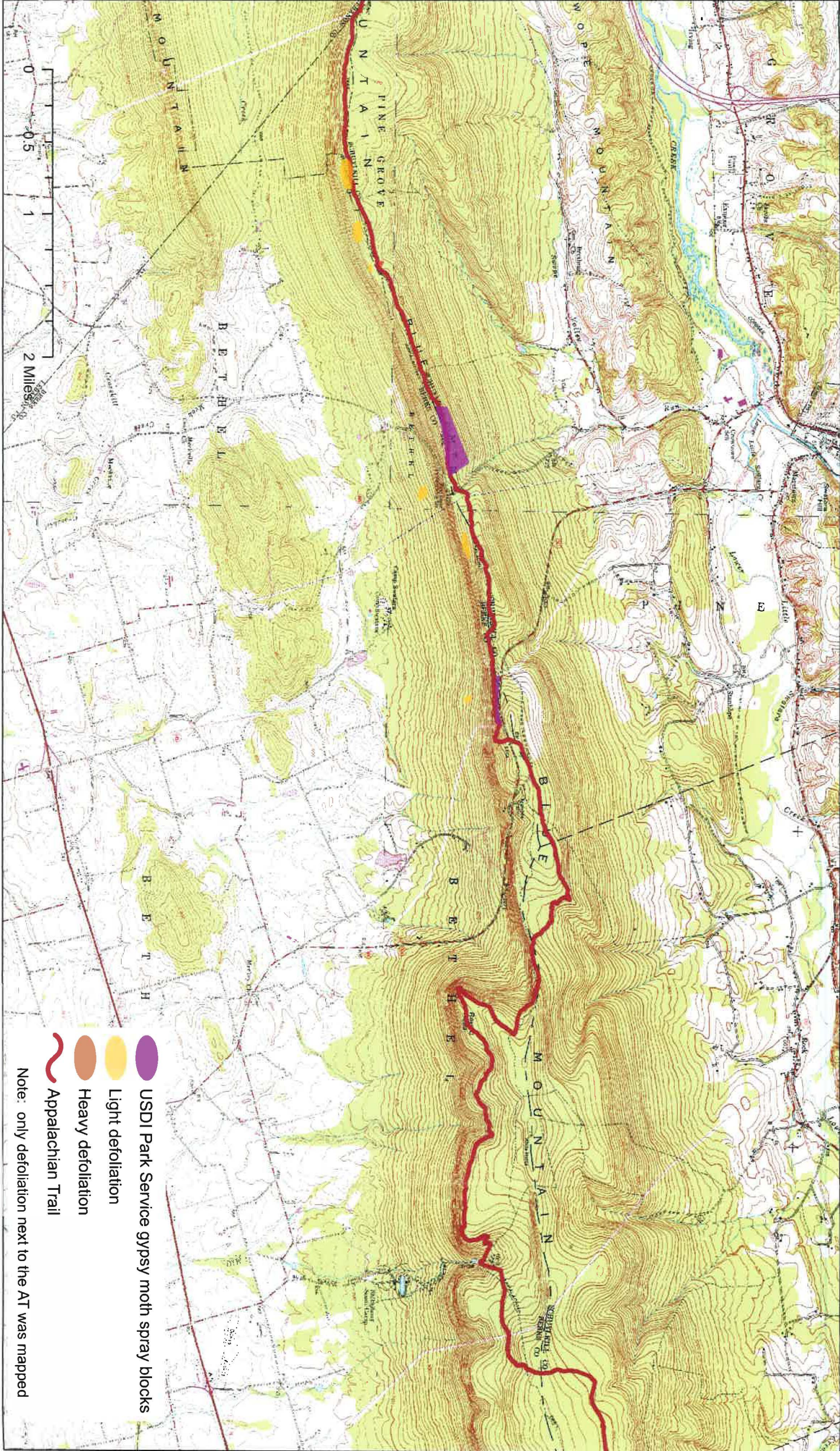


Figure 1c. Results of the aerial survey along the Appalachian Trail conducted on June 15th, 2009.

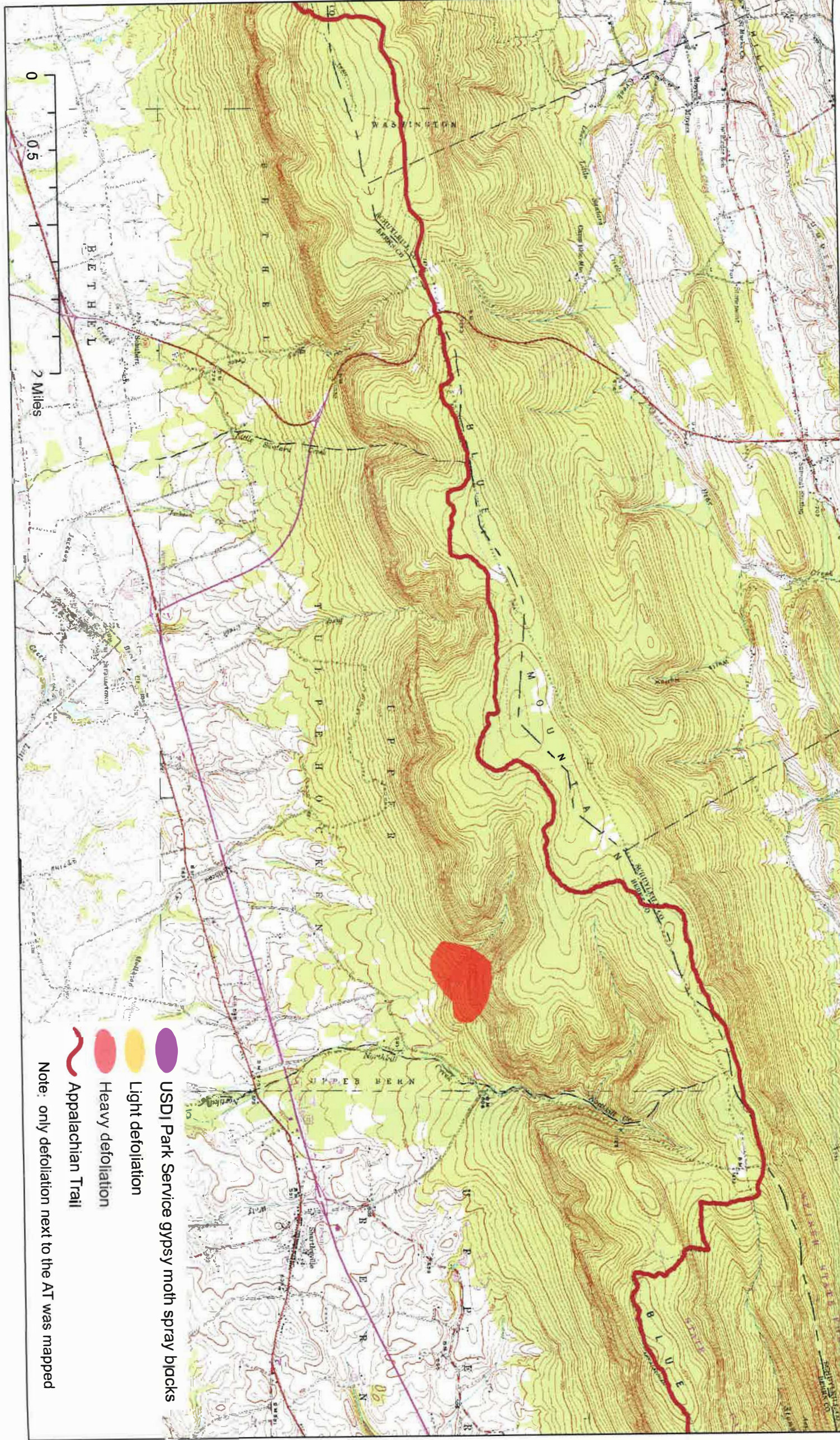


Figure 1d. Results of the aerial survey along the Appalachian Trail conducted on June 15th, 2009.

